

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /059 W

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O R 110855Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7668

INFO ALL OAU CAPITALS 009

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0331

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS ET

SUBJ: ETHIOPIA PRESS REPORT

1. WIRE SERVICES WILL HAVE CARRIED, AND SEPTTEL IS REPORTING, STRANGE ETHIOPIA GOVT PRESS RELEASE OF JAN 10 CRITICIZING USG AND BRITS.

2. BRIT AMB AND US AMB LAST NIGHT HAD OPPORTUNITIES TO MAKE STRONG ORAL PROTESTS TO EPMG FONMIN AND INFO MIN. ACCORDING TO BOTH MINS, WHO SEEM CHAGRINED AND EMBARRASSED, NEITHER HAD ANY KNOWLEDGE OF THE RELEASE (SOME FOUR HOURS AFTER IT WAS DISTRIBUTED PUBLICLY). US AMB'S REPRESENTATIONS TO FONMIN, VIGOROUSLY SUPPORTED BY BRIT AMB, CONCENTRATED ON ILLOGIC AND UNFAIRNESS OF ATTACK ON OUR TWO GOVTS FOR GENERATING PUBLICITY ON ASMARA KIDNAPPEES. US AMB SAID HE DID NOT WANT TO ADDRESS EPMG COMPLAINT CONCERNING TIME MAGAZINE STORY, BUT ATTACK ON USG AND UKG WAS DIFFERENT MATTER THAT WE TOOK SERIOUSLY AND COULD NOT ACCEPT. RELEASE OF KAGNEW TWO IN SUDAN WAS A FACT THAT COULD NOT BE DENIED, AND TIMING OF THEIR RELEASE OF COURSE HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH OAU MEETING.

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3. BELIEVE BEST COURSE IS FOR US OFFICIALS HERE AND IN WASH

TO REFUSE ALL PUBLIC COMMENT ON EPMG PRESS RELEASE, BUT
CONTINUE PRIVATE REPRESENTATIONS TO EPMG AS OPPORTUNITIES
OCCUR. IT SEEMS CLEAR THAT HOTHEADS IN RULING MILITARY JUNTA
ACTED TOO SWIFTLY, AND LUDICROUS NATURE OF CHARGES CONCERNING
PUBLICITY ABOUT ASMARA KIDNAPPEES SHOULD BE CLEAR TO MANY
READERS. WE CAN HOPE THIS WILL DIE OF ITS OWN WEIGHT.
HUMMEL

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: KIDNAPPING, PRESS RELEASES, ALLEGATIONS, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, SUMMIT MEETINGS, PRISONERS RELEASE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 11 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976ADDIS00331
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760010-0142
From: ADDIS ABABA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760168/aaaacibw.tel
Line Count: 68
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by ShawDG>; APPROVED <06 OCT 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ETHIOPIA PRESS REPORT
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, ET
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006